

Anthony Patrone, UConn Undergraduate Student Government

1. Higher tuition and fees hurt Connecticut's students most.
 - a. Connecticut has an obligation to invest in higher education.
 - i. Our greatest resource is between our ears.
 - b. Governor promised not to balance the budget on the backs of students.
 - i. Governor kept municipal funding flat to support public schools without raising taxes.
 - ii. Tuition increases are a tax hike on students who can afford it the least.
 1. Tuition *will* increase drastically as the University cannot continue to dry up its reserves.
 - c. Administration has recognized that further cuts will impact academics.
 - i. "There are not a lot of good options." "Everything is on the table [to be cut]."
 - d. Cuts to faculty run contrary to the Governor's promise that not one teacher would be fired.
2. Why I chose UConn
 - a. My list consisted of UConn and a private university that cost twice as much.
 - i. Tuition and fee increases would have kept me from Storrs, but so would a decrease in the quality of the education offered.
 - b. I am glad that I chose UConn and I am proud of my school; I only hope that others from my town and towns like it will have the chance to benefit from an affordable world class education so close to home.
3. There are problems...
 - a. It is true that UConn is one of the most administrator-heavy universities nationwide.
 - b. Students know that President Susan Herbst has received a pay raise, despite the uncertainty of the University's fiscal footing.
 - c. Students have no say- we don't decide what gets cut (an issue we hope will be addressed by adding a second student to the Board of Trustees).
4. The University of Connecticut has become a highly ranked, highly respected, and highly recognizable academic institution. The good work that has been done at Connecticut's flagship university, for Connecticut's bright young people, cannot be undone in the name of balancing the checkbook.